(b) whether Government have no plan to upgrade the said farm to be a National Breeder Potato Seed Farm during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if not, whether there is any Government plan to open a Potato breeder seed farm in the North East Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the Research & Breeder Seed production aspects of Potato for the North Eastern Region are taken care of by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research through Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla and its Regional Stations at Shillong & Patna. As such Government of India has no plan to upgrade the Mao Farm to a National Breeder Seed Farm in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(c) No, Sir.

Yield Per Acre of Land in the Country

1535. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the yield per acre of land in our country is about half of that in China;

(b) if so, what steps Government are going to take to increase productivity; and

(c) whether foodgrain production for 1998-99 was over 200 million tons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Comparison between yield per acre of major crops like cereals, cotton show that yield rates of China are higher than that of India.

(b) To increase production and productivity of agricultural crops, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System area, Accelerated Maize Development Prog-

ramme, National Pulses Development Project, Intensive Cotton Development Programme, Special Jute Development Programme and Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System. Under these programmes/project, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstration on farmers' holding including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology.

Yes, Sir. It is estimated to be 202.54 million tonnes.

Looting of Relief Materials in Orissa

1536. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the looting of relief materials has been going on in several cyclone affected areas in Orissa;

(b) if so, the areas from which such incidents have been reported;

(c) the steps taken to check such incidents; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Mismanagement in Polythene Distribution

1537. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large scale mismanagement in the distribution of polythene in the cyclone affected districts in Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of polythene rolls procured and distributed in the cyclone affected districts;

(c) the steps taken to regularise the distribution of polythene in these areas; and

(d) the details thereof?